

Application No.: 10/689111

Case No.: 42698US059

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A flexible hook strip that can be used in a hook-and-loop mechanical fastener, said strip comprising a homogeneous flexible backing of thermoplastic resin having a thickness of from 0.1 to 0.5 mm and, ~~integral~~ integrally formed with said backing, an array of upstanding stems distributed across at least one face of the backing, each of said stems having a base adjacent said backing and a head at the end of the stem opposite said backing, said stems having a molecular orientation as evidenced by a birefringence value of at least 0.001.
2. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 1 wherein the stems are of substantially identical shape and are each slightly tapered to a smaller cross sectional area adjacent the head than at the base.
3. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 2 wherein said hook strip has a fillet at the base of each of said stems.
4. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 3 wherein said stems are substantially circular in cross section.
5. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 1 wherein said stems are of substantially uniform height and said mushroom heads are of substantially uniform diameter.
6. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 5 wherein said stems are from 0.5 mm to 5 mm in height.
7. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 1 wherein said backing is formed of a polypropylene or a copolymer of polypropylene and polyethylene.

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8. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 7 wherein said stems are substantially circular in cross section and the ratio of the diameters of the mushroom head and the stem of each of said stems is from 1.5:1 to 3:1.

9. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 1, wherein said backing of the hook strip is substantially continuous and is wound up into a roll for convenient storage and shipment.

10. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 1 wherein the spacing of the headed stems is so configured that two pieces of the hook strip can interengage to provide a mechanical fastener.

11. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 10 wherein the headed stems are of substantially identical size and shape and the spacing between adjacent heads along said hook strip is less than the diameter of the heads.

12. (original) A hook strip as defined in claim 11 wherein said stems are substantially circular in cross section and the stems are each slightly tapered to a smaller diameter adjacent the head than at the base.